(ग) और (घ) भारतीय राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक की स्थापना करने सहित क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को पुनर्गठित करने के कई वैकल्पिक मांडलों पर विचार करने के पश्चात, क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को स्वयं सक्षमता (स्टैंड एलोन) के आधार पर उनके तुलन पत्रों में सुस्पष्टता लेकर उन्हें पुनर्गठित करने का निर्णय लिया गया था । तदनुसार व्यापक पुनर्गठन हेतु वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान 49 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को लिया गया था । मार्च, 1997 तक सरकार द्वारा कुल 196 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों में से 136 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को 57.3 करोड़ रूपए (लगभग) की ईक्विटी सहायता प्रदान की गई है । क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों के पूनर्पूजीकरण की प्रक्रिया को जारी रखने के लिए चालू वर्ष के दौरान 270 करोड़ रूपए का प्रावधान किया गया है ।

Low credit-deposit ratio of SBI in Kerala

2257. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the deposit-credit ratio of the State Bank in Kerala region is low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of a demand to form a separate administrative circle (local Head Office) of SBI for Kerala; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that the Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of SBI in Kerala as at the end of March 1997 was 48.18 per cent as against 46.89 per cent for all Scheduled Commercial Banks in the State. Reasons for low CD Ratio in Kerala are slow industrial growth, infrastructural bottlenecks, absence of large public/private sector industrial units requiring large credit absorptions.

(c) and (d) While the Government of Kerala have made request for formation of a separate circle of State Bank of India (SBI) for Kerala, SBI presently, has no such proposal to form a separate circle for Kerala. However, the discretionary powers of the Deputy General Managers incharge of zonal Offices have been considerably enhanced and some branches have been brought directly under the control of functionaries at the Local Head Office (The branches located in the State of Kerala fall under the administrative control of of Chennai (Circle). This arrangement would expedite decisions both in credit and in general matters.

Report of IMF regarding Indian Economy

2258. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Monetary Fund (IMF) blamed India for export slowdown, slow pace of investment in infrastructure and economic ills;

(b) whether these reports are part of World Bank strategy to push India further to liberalisation and open the market for multinationals; and

(c) the reactions of Government of World Bank strategy to push India on this latest report of IMF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) As part of the Article IV consultation exercise, the IMF Board recognized the strong economic potential and performance of India. The Board felt that the recent slowdown in industrial production and exports was, to a considerable extent, a consequence of the partial nature of the reforms which had contributed to infrastructure bottlenecks and to continuing constraints in the financial sector.

(b) No, Sir. However IMF's appraisal is consistent with the World Bank's advice to India on trade policy, according to which a reduction in trade restrictions would lead to an improvement in India's export performance, would improve the competitiveness of import-competing domestic industry, and would provide benefits to domestic purchasers and consumers.

(c) The Government is taking all measures to increase the pace of economic development as part of the ongoing economic reform process.

Persons on ITC Board chargesheeted by Enforcement Directorate

2259. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Enforcement Directorate has chargesheeted all those who had served on the board of ITC Ltd., since 1993 including nominees of the Financial Institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five Show Cause Notices have been issued by the Enforcement Directorate to M/s. ITC, its Chairman, Ex-Chairman and all its Directors who were on the company's Board during the period 1993-95, including nominees of the financial institutions.

Persons arrested for violation of custom rules

2260. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for violation of customs rules in the country during each of the last three years up till now; and

(b) the amount of drugs, gold, silver, cash and foreign articles seized from them, custom-zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LIC investment in Housing Sector in Maharashtra

2261. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) housing loans given by the LIC in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidarbha region during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that LIC is investing loss amount in Maharashtra compared to other States in respect of housing loans;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps Governments propose to take to ensure that LIC invests substantial amount in housing sector of Maharashtra through loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Planning Commission had allocated Rs. 9.02, 10.29 and 8.94 crores to Government of Maharashtra for housing loans for the financial years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively, but the amounts were not disbursed since the State Government did not avail of the loan. However, for the same period an amount of Rs. 16.00 crores in each financial year have been disbursed by LIC to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. The housing loans given to State Governments